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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,862	12/10/2003	Torsten Berger	SNS-013	8061

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PATENT ADMINISTRATOR  
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BOSTON, MA 02109-2881

EXAMINER
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CASCHERA, ANTONIO A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/733,862	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BERGER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Antonio A. Caschera	<b>Art Unit</b> 2676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-55 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 56-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 1-28 (Group II) and 29-55 (previously 29-63) (Group III) are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made for claims 56-64 (Group I) **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/28/05. Note, the listing of claims in Group III should have read 29-55 and not 29-63. This was a typographical error in the previous office action.

### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: #1812 found in paragraph 148. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: #2302 of Figure

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23A. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to because it seems that some of the Figures have been cut off when scanned into the PTO's IFW system (see for example Figures 12A and 23A). This may be the reason why some of the above reference numbers were objected to as not being mentioned within the drawings. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet"

or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 56-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dumesny et al. (U.S. Pub 2002/0154132 A1).

In reference to claim 56, Dumesny et al. discloses a user interface, method and computer system operating a user interface, for applying a texture to a 3D graphic object and modifying the texture using several techniques (see paragraph 9, lines 1-5, paragraph 13, lines 1-7 and paragraph 76, lines 7-11). Dumesny et al. discloses allowing the user to select a defined region of a 3D graphic object and map the selected regions or polygons to a texture map (see paragraphs 13, 44, 47 and 48). Dumesny et al. discloses assigning texture map coordinate values to the corresponding polygons since when Dumesny et al. performs texture mapping, coordinates of object space and texture map space are associated and texture values are therefore also inherently associated (see paragraphs 4 and 5). Note, the Office interprets the “graphical value” of Applicant’s claim functionally equivalent to the texture value comprised within a texture map as seen in Figure 4 of Dumesny et al..

In reference to claim 57, Dumesny et al. discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 56 above in addition, Dumesny et al. discloses graphically rendering the object in real-time as the user modifies texture values (see paragraph 49).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 58-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dumesny et al. (U.S. Pub 2002/0154132 A1) in view of Leather et al. (U.S. Patent 6,707,458 B1).

In reference to claim 58, Dumesny et al. discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 56 above however, Dumesny et al. does not explicitly disclose modifying a voxel representation of the object according to the texture values. Leather et al. discloses a method and apparatus for texture tiling in a graphics system (see column 4, lines 38-40) wherein the texture is configured in a tile format (see column 4, lines 1-9 and Figure 20A). Leather et al. further discloses performing embossing type bump mapping effects on incoming processed texture coordinates (see columns 9-10, lines 56-3), the bump mapping further comprising a bump mapping displacement associated with each texture coordinate (see column 10, lines 8-20). Note, the Office interprets the depth/height of the object being altered using the texture bump mapping displacement values of Leather et al., equivalent to the modifying of a voxel representation of the object using the “graphical values” of Applicant’s claim.

In reference to claim 59, Dumesny et al. discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 56 above however, Dumesny et al. does not explicitly disclose the texture being of a tiled type. Leather et al. discloses a method and apparatus for texture tiling in a graphics system (see column 4, lines 38-40) wherein the texture is configured in a tile format (see column 4, lines 1-9 and Figure 20A). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the texture tiling techniques of Leather et al. with the graphical object texturing techniques of Dumesny et al. in order to create realistic looking surface detail on rendered objects while processing in an efficient and advantageous manner (see column 3, lines 35-36 and columns 3-4, lines 66-4 of Leather et al.).

In reference to claim 60, Dumesny et al. and Leather et al. disclose all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 59 above. Leather et al. discloses a method and apparatus for texture tiling in a graphics system (see column 4, lines 38-40) wherein the texture is configured in a tile format (see column 4, lines 1-9 and Figure 20A). Leather et al. also explicitly discloses improving on the past technique of texture tiling, which used to draw a polygon for each desired tile meaning each tile was constrained to align with a polygon (see column 4, lines 17-20).

In reference to claim 61, Dumesny et al. and Leather et al. disclose all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 59 above. Dumesny et al. discloses graphically rendering the object in real-time as the user modifies texture values (see paragraph 49). Leather et al. discloses a method and apparatus for texture tiling in a graphics system (see column 4, lines 38-40) wherein the texture is configured in a tile format (see column 4, lines 1-9 and Figure 20A).

In reference to claim 62, Dumesny et al. discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 56 above. Dumesny et al. discloses assigning texture map coordinate values to the

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corresponding polygons since when Dumesny et al. performs texture mapping, coordinates of object space and texture map space are associated and texture values are therefore also inherently associated (see paragraphs 4 and 5). Note, the Office interprets the “graphical value” of Applicant’s claim functionally equivalent to the texture value comprised within a texture map as seen in Figure 4 of Dumesny et al.. Further, the texture value output from a texture map is well known in the art to be a color value as explicitly shown in Leather et al. (see Figures 7A and 7B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to interpret the texture value, associated with the selected texture coordinate of a texture map, of Dumesny et al., with a color value since it is well known in the art that a texture map may hold color values, as shown in Leather et al..

In reference to claim 63, Dumesny et al. discloses all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 56 above. Although Dumesny et al. discloses assigning texture map coordinate values to corresponding polygons (see paragraphs 4 and 5), Dumesny et al. does not explicitly disclose the texture map comprising an embossing pattern. Leather et al. discloses a method and apparatus for texture tiling in a graphics system (see column 4, lines 38-40) wherein the texture is configured in a tile format (see column 4, lines 1-9 and Figure 20A). Leather et al. further discloses performing embossing type bump mapping effects on incoming processed texture coordinates (see columns 9-10, lines 56-3), the bump mapping further comprising a bump mapping displacement associated with each texture coordinate (see column 10, lines 8-20). Further note, the Office interprets the displacement value of Leather et al. to inherently define an adjustment along a normal to the surface of a virtual object of Applicant’s claim. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement



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the texturing techniques of Leather et al. with the graphical object texturing techniques of Dumesny et al. in order to create realistic looking surface detail on rendered objects while processing in an efficient and advantageous manner (see column 3, lines 35-36 and columns 3-4, lines 66-4 of Leather et al.).

In reference to claim 64, Dumesny et al. and Leather et al. disclose all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 63 above. Dumesny et al. discloses graphically rendering the object in real-time as the user modifies texture values (see paragraph 49). Leather et al. discloses a method and apparatus for texture tiling in a graphics system (see column 4, lines 38-40) wherein the texture is configured in a tile format (see column 4, lines 1-9 and Figure 20A).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Antonio Caschera whose telephone number is (571) 272-7781. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays between 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached at (571) 272-7778.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

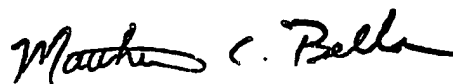
**or faxed to:**

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**571-273-8300 (Central Fax)**

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

aac  
*apl*  
12/21/05

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew C. Bella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**